

REMARKS

The application includes claims 2, 5, 7-17, 20, and 22-37 prior to entering this amendment.

The examiner rejects claims 34-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention.

The examiner indicates claim 33 allowable if rewritten in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner rejects claims 2, 5, 7-17, 20, 22-32, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grisamore (U.S. Patent 6,535,901) in view of Yamazaki et al. (U.S. Patent 4,706,211).

The applicant amends claims 2, 7-8, 17, 22-23, 34-35, and 37 and cancels claims 33 and 36 without prejudice.

Claims 2, 5, 7-17, 20, 22-32, 34-35, and 37 remain in the application after entering this amendment.

The applicant does not add new matter and requests reconsideration.

Claim Rejections Under § 112

The applicant amends claims 34-35 to correct typographical and dependency errors.

Claims Allowable

The applicant thanks examiner Ngo for indicating allowable claim 33 if rewritten in independent form to include base claim 2.

The applicant rewrites independent claim 2 to include claim 33 and amends claim 34 to depend from claim 2. Claims 2, 5, 7-16, and 34 should be in condition for the examiner's allowance.

The applicant amends independent claims 17 and 35 to include language similar to that in allowable claim 33. Claims 17, 20, 22-32, 34-35, and 37 should be in condition for the examiner's allowance.

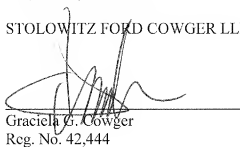
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 2, 5, 7-17, 20, 22-32, 34-35, and 37 are allowable and asks the examiner to pass this application to allowance. If the examiner has any questions or believes that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the applicant encourages the examiner to call the undersigned at (503) 224-2170.

Customer No. 73552

Respectfully submitted,

STOLOWITZ FORD COWGER LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graciela G. Cowger', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and flourishes.

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